

Of Trump and Trolls

Inger Bierschenk

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Abstract In our time there is a growing fear propagating in media that the newly elected president of the United States, Donald Trump, incarnates attributes and personality traits that will lead mankind toward an inexorable disaster. In order to understand the forces that took the president to power, a public discussion of the Renaissance personality Machiavelli has been brought to the fore and with it the characteristics of leadership. Typical of the debate is an archaic linking of the unwanted leader with the evil forces in folk legends and fairy tales. This article takes its point of departure in the mythological beings having the role in common to confuse our views, in particular dwarves and trolls. The purpose of the study is to examine a statement by Trump to find out whether its embedded consciousness reveals some attributes typical of the Machiavellian Prince. The method is Perspective Text Analysis (PTA/Vertex), which discerns Intention, governed by the [A] component, from Orientation, governed by the [O] component. The study could show that both the intention and orientation of Trump is embedding *Success*. As a comparison, a statement by Vladimir Putin was analysed. In contrast to what has been put forward publicly, his structure is concentrated in *Depression* in both dimensions. Without making any political statement, it can be concluded that mythology reigns among observers of a political leader.

Otherness and hidden forces

All over the world, stories are told of mythical beings, which interfere with people's lives with sometimes good, sometimes evil intentions and consequences. It seems, however, that the stories that deal with the evil forces have the greatest potential to survive. Perhaps it is because they convey the idea that human survival depends on how well we can outwit these forces. The fight and victory against evil can be designed with infinite variety, yet there are archetypal features that can be retraced over cultures and times.

An intriguing idea in folktales is that beings or creatures with evil forces differ in appearance from ordinary people. For example, often the dangerous creatures referred to in the Nordic tradition, which are called "troll" (singular and plural), are described as characters with abnormal body parts, such as a single big eye (Asplund Ingemark, 2004). The female trolls can be less terrifying but have a double role, where the beautiful seductress is one side of the medal and the witch the other, such as the Swedish "skogsrå" (approx. siren of the woods, wood nymph) that hides the tail behind her back. Being able to transform oneself is a typical troll attribute, as well as other supernatural gifts. Therefore, the trolls are everywhere among us. The saying "When you talk about the trolls, they are standing in the hall" (compare: "When you talk about the devil, ...") is obvious to everyone.

The consciousness of the existence of small-grown beings, in popular speech "das Kleine Volk" (Puhle, 2010) has always existed, according to fairy tales and sayings. "The little ones" have several names in Nordic people's faith, but depending on the geographical area, in addition to dwarf (gnome) (Swedish "dvärg") they are named, for example, "alv" (or "alf") "vätte" or "vittra" (plural only). These beings live in the mountains or underground, and in particular the dwarves are associated with wisdom as well as forging and crafts. In *Völuspa*, the birth of the first people is depicted as if they were created by dwarves. Perhaps that is why dwarves in the myth formation have been produced as a different and older race than man. Not surprisingly, the dwarves of the fairy tales are often helpers and wise advisors, such as the

seven dwarves of Snow White. In J.R.R. Tolkien's books, dwarves play an important role in the stories, where they are described as diligent, persistent and even resentful, but not evil. It does not prevent the art of forging of the dwarves from giving rise to stories such as *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, which was forged by the dwarf Alberich, and has symbolized the evil power of the world.

The little character named "Tomten" is a legendary figure in Nordic people's faith. He has the role of watch-dog, one who guards and protects while working in stable and barn, and ensures the prosperity of the farm. His characteristics thus link to the mythical small-grown figures, which are not visible but acting. However, a lot of stories about Tomten tell that he is both short-tempered and malicious, qualities that he uses when he does not get the expected gratitude from the farm people. *Tomten* (1881), a poem by the Swedish writer Viktor Rydberg, is a personage who ponders over eternity and the time passing, beaming of old age and goodness, and is a romanticised view of the little figure of the folk legends. It is said that the author wanted that Jenny Nyström in her illustration to the poem should convey the image of a good-natured little man rather than the wicked one. Regardless of her interpretation, it is clear that her Tomten is largely a dwarf-like figure (Hofberg, 1882, p. 106).

The physiology of the dwarves of reality differs from normally short-grown people in that the legs and arms are disproportionately small while the rest of the body is of normal size. In addition, the head is slightly larger than expected. With this point of departure, the dwarves have had the role of being displayed as exotic, even hilarious. However, it is not uncommon that the abnormality of the dwarf appearance has been considered unpleasant and therefore related to unpleasant traits, such as unreliability, sluggishness and malice. Hence follows the evil dwarf of the fairy tale, which runs away with children and beautiful maidens.

A much more complicated connection exists between the abnormal and its symbolic meaning. In Birgitta Trotzig's novel *En berättelse från kusten* (A story from the coast) (Trotzig, 1961), Merete, a humpbacked female figure, symbolizes the duality in both the historic Calvary and the timeless human road through life. When she eventually dies by the crowd of people stoning her as a victim and a scapegoat for the suffering of the city, she becomes a savior. Doris Lessing in *The Fifth Child* (Lessing, 1988) makes use of the birth of a grotesquely deformed boy child, which is said to be like a troll or dwarf. The birth can be interpreted as a feminist protest. In a broader perspective, the novel is a civilization criticism where the birth of the monster can be seen as a symbol of the collapse of humanist education in the same way as the monster in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* has an underlying criticism of the insanity of science.

The cultural role of the dwarf seems to have been to throw dust in our eyes by acting on his tragic doubleness. Perhaps the dwarf had a different perspective (not just from below) on people and events that made him desirable among men of power. Pär Lagerkvist's figure *Dvärgen* (*The Dwarf*) (1944) looks as expected and has the characteristics that can be expected; he is mean, sluggish and calculating, and represents everything in man who is not good. As a literary figure, he relates to the evil beings of the tales and folk legends, the ugly troll, the malicious watch-dog and the dwarf of the myth. But what he shapes is murder plans and not metal objects. Lagerkvist also uses the doubleness, though in a more sophisticated sense. The dwarf does not have the ability to transform himself, he is totally unchangeable and should instead be seen as the evil side of the prince whom he serves.

It is natural to associate the prince of the novel with the leadership ideal of the Renaissance, since the story takes place during that time. The meaning that is usually associated with the adjective Machiavellian corresponds to the dwarf's properties, such as ruthless, sly and insidious. However, among the virtues of the Prince, according to the common perception of Machiavelli's attitude, is to be morally flexible, for example by arming oneself to defend oneself against unfair abuse of power. Through the portrait of the dwarf as

the alter ego of the prince, Lagerkvist was able to say that we often look upon ourselves “in obscure mirrors” (Lagerkvist, 1944, p. 211), but if we open our eyes and become realists, the true reality may come forth. It is better to devote oneself to “the bad reality” than “the good divinity” is a result of an analysis of a famous statement by Machiavelli (B. Bierschenk, 2012, p. 16). The prince of the novel is open minded and adapts to the reality he lives in. He lets his dwarf serve when he considers it necessary, but passes him to the “basement floor” when he no longer needs him. A utilitarian view of life, as stated in I. Bierschenk (2013, p. 9).

Leaders of today are often evaluated in relation to their advisors and co-workers. To follow the line from Lagerkvist’s novel, the most evident example is Nazism, against which the novel was clearly a protest. In the Nazi leader’s entourage there was a propaganda minister who made the most fervent and demagogic speeches. In view of the idea of how evil forces are embodied, it is not surprising that the minister’s deformed foot (lumpy foot) has become a symbol of his wicked inner. The newly elected president in the United States is a late example of doubleness in leadership. Thus, the dwarf role has been taken by adviser Steve Bannon, who has led his master through primary election campaign and election victory and was rewarded with a position in the National Security Council. But since he represents a destructive policy and drew the attention away from his lord, he was returned to the “basement floor”. Wallnor (2017) makes the resemblance between Bannon’s fate and the evil troll of fairy tales that bursts when the sun rises. However, a few months later, Steve Bannon is back (Green, 2017). As Green describes the relationship between Trump and Bannon, there is no way for Trump of getting rid of his dwarf; they are united, no matter how Trump knows him. Nevertheless, Bannon left the White House on August 18, 2017.

A short grown leader is either ridiculed or subjected to distrust. It is not uncommon for these leaders to feel that they need to enhance certain qualities or add new ones to their image to match the greatness that is associated with the leadership or office. The Russian leader Vladimir Putin is now in his third term as president. Like the Nazi leader in the thirties, he introduces himself as a man of healthy habits, he likes combat sports and uses wild animals as pets. After having made caricatures of him as a comic midget, Russian media now gladly show him in the best macho style, riding, with naked upper body and surrounded by a magnificent nature, a picture of mastery of power (Reuters, 2011). However, just like Russia is no world power, even though its propaganda tries hard to make it great, its leader is no powerful man either. He needs a Labrador to influence Mrs Angela Merkel. Inner weakness has to be compensated by frightening others and by exercising military force. It is obvious to the world community that there is a considerable gap between appearance and reality, as Dobbert (2017) puts it.

An attachment that corresponds to the insidious dwarf today is the phenomenon known as the internet trolls. Trolling is a way of enticing someone to express himself controversially. When shortened to troll, the word is associated with the troll in the fairy tales. Trolls of the internet may perhaps do not have any supernatural gifts, but they can certainly reverse the view of the readers. The Russian leader is considered to be dealing with provoking instigators on the net, which the Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* (2015) calls “Kremlin’s trolls” and which by spreading uncertainty and confusion creates global evil. This “evil dwarf- function” appears to be an inevitable part of the political power holding, but its connection to the Russian regime is not openly recognized. However, the Russians are overwriting reality with myths because they know that an audience is willing to believe any truth when told “with a little help from fakes” (Komarnyckyj, 2017). Konnikova (2016) makes a similar reasoning regarding the accusation of Donald Trump being a con artist. She concludes that a con artist is one who has deliberately engaged in deception. Should this turn out to be true about Trump after his election, we, the audience, “may end up not wanting to admit that we were scammed”.

Almost no president has caused so much alarming uncertainty about his leadership as Donald Trump, and even before he took office. Because he is not a politician but has his background in the business world, where negotiation and success are the code words, he is automatically associated with the “evil” that the critics call everything that is not politically and diplomatically predictable. Trump himself has said that he does not want to be predictable and that he does not need to hold on to anything he has said. Such an extreme form of flexibility creates turbulence within the media and makes interviews with the president to absurd events.

Under these circumstances, it is hardly remarkable that archaic imagination appears in people’s ways of reading the new president. His appearance has been taunted, such as the smallness of some body parts and a remarkable hairstyle. Could it be so that the peculiar way of combing the hair signals that something else is abnormal too? Psychologists and psychiatrists publicly diagnose his behaviour as unbalanced or mentally ill, and political scientists see his actions as extremely unstable and dangerous. Also usually sober-minded politicians have identified him as unaware, uneducated and unwelcome, not to speak about journalists, who predict a new world order with Trump’s entry on the political scene, as for example Ohlsson (2017). It is therefore proper to warn for all jokes about Trump, according to Luef (2017), since these obscure reality, which is enough blameful as it is.

The idea underlying the perceptions of the president’s annoying apartness has bound up the thoughts and in archetypical spirit got caught in the idea of his ruthless leadership, that is to say, a kind that to a higher degree leads the thoughts to the characteristics of a dwarf than the Prince’s more adaptable style. In connection with Trump’s entry into the presidential campaign scene, there has been a revival of the ideas of Machiavellianism and a discussion in various media on whether Trump being a Machiavellian type or not (for example, Cuzan, 2016; Ignatius, 2017; Roth, 2016; Zaretsky, 2016) and on what points his actions coincide with what Machiavelli considered to be an exemplary leadership style. Roth (2016), in referring to professor Maurizio Viroli at University of Austin, Texas, states that a good political leader, according to Machiavelli, is a person whom we must judge based on his hands and not from his eyes. With eyes he meant appearances on the political scene.

Long before Donald Trump became subject to medial review, the actions by Vladimir Putin was compared with thoughts of Machiavellianism, not surprisingly. It seems though as if a more serious kind of leadership has come to stand in focus for these discussions, especially Machiavelli’s ideas about the Prince’s military advancements combined with approval from the people (*Cougarpolitics*, 2013). Putin’s desire to manage a military superpower, which resolves international conflicts, also got him gain responsibility of the Syrian civil war conflict. The Obama administration, exercising power-politics, gave Putin influence over the arena, by maneuvering. It is well known that the Machiavellian Prince was not driven by cynicism but by humanism. “It is better to remain realistic and clear-headed about the limits of human virtue on the world stage, to see the field as it is and not as it ought to be” is a motto that has served Putin well (Nikitin, 2013). So, who is most Machiavellian? Like in reasoning about Trump, writers put forward various pros and cons on whether Putin’s actions are true Machiavellian or not (for example, Engdahl, 2016; Sullivan, 2013, Withander, 2015). Sullivan concludes that “the individual who *seems* the least Machiavellian is often the *most*”.

It is irrefutable that President Trump is a man of action and wants to be judged accordingly, not for what he says. Yet, his statements cause the most condemnations and mockery, at least when this text is written (after the first hundred days). As concerns President Putin, most pundits regard him as a man who approaches life in an intellectual way. That does not mean that words and actions are judged alike. This study aims to investigate into what is hidden under a statement made by Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin in order to disclose whether there is a gap between talk and action.

The Study

The study will begin with Trump, where he makes a statement on something that could be considered as the guiding principle or driving force for his leadership. Putin will be chosen next, as a contrast. The method to be applied is Perspective Text Analysis (PTA / Vertex), which accesses the structural dimension in a text, i.e., invisible connections.

Method

Theoretical context A person's movement pattern is both physical and mental. The physical Gestalt and the textual form a symbiotic relationship. The movement pattern that a person has in current time also characterizes him in a life cycle. So, since a person's text is a product of himself, the linguistic movements in the text are segments of his individual-specific expression (I. Bierschenk, 1992).

Selection of texts The text of Trump is not part of the campaign talk he made or any response from an interview he participated in as president-elect. Instead a statement was chosen, which can be seen as more general and has not been assigned a date. The same holds for Putin. Both texts are taken from the *Brainy Quote* site (2017-05-03).

Donald Trump:

Part of being a winner is knowing when enough is enough. Sometimes you have to give up the fight and walk away, and move on to something that's more productive. [30 words, 131 graphemes]

Vladimir Putin:

If the nation is not capable of preserving itself and reproducing, if it loses its vital bearings and ideals, then it doesn't need foreign enemies – it will fall apart on its own. [32 words, 147 graphemes]

Comment A common conception among text researchers is that any text to be studied contains more valuable information the longer it is. Nothing can be more wrong. Many years of empirical work with the method described below have shown that short texts have at least as much essential information as longer ones, provided that the chosen text section has significance for the research question.

Discovering Disguised Meaning

Anyone who wants to get access to invisible meanings in a text must have a method that reveals just that. *Perspective Text Analysis (PTA/Vertex)* has been designed to detect the internal dynamics in a text, which does not have a direct connection to the visible surface (see e.g. B. Bierschenk, 1993/2013, 2011; I. Bierschenk, 1989, 1999/2003, 2011; I. Bierschenk & B. Bierschenk, 2004, 2011).

The smallest units in this analysis are the graphemes. The analysis creates a protocol of how strings of graphemes are manifested and interwoven in the text building, a process that is invisible when a person speaks or writes. This protocol uncovers the mechanism that shows the gaps in the flow that creates disparities and determines what the gaps should be filled with for the weave to be complete. The mode of action of this instrument involves a visualization of the invisible.

A text flows in a time-bound rotating movement and also rhythmically. This is the natural way in which language creates the elasticity necessary for communication. The more elasticity or implicitness, the more space will be created. Two components operate in this

space creation movement, namely the Agent [A], which has its position before the verb in the clause, and the Objective [O], which has its position after the verb. These positions are fixed and independent of semantics. Thus, an Agent does not correlate with a person. The two components rotate with and against each other during the entire process, and not until the movement ends, they have performed their task and created the contours of a text space (image), that is, the full textual extension. When this shall be summarized graphically, it is based on the distance between the values, which form a wave. Thereafter, the flow dynamics in the dimensions [A] and [O] may be studied separately, without their mutual dependency being shattered.

In the next step, it will be a matter of getting a picture of the intricate structure of the text, which establishes concentrations of information. The result of this more abstract level is called Intention (determined by the Agent) and Orientation (determined by the Objective). Information is calculated by means of a fusion mechanism and is based on the distance between the nodes in the network. Some nodes become thicker than others and the network thus formed builds up a landscape of mountains and valleys, which can have names like any topographical map. The peaks in such a landscape collect concentrated energy. It shall be noted that any interpretation is not present in this phase. The names that may be given to those energy clusters, the so-called attractors, are the result of transformations that take place exclusively based on the asymmetrical collaboration of physical and virtual strings. An attractor name occurs temporarily but may return and enter into a new transformation at a later stage in the process. Concepts in this analysis are empirical, temporarily emerged, unlike those formed by classification, which is governed by semantically determined laws.

Course of presentation The presentation of the results from the PTA / Vertex analysis begins with a schematic representation of the text in question, whose specific characteristics will be commented. It will then proceed with the graphical visualization of the textual flow dynamics of Agent and Objective. The graphics program used is SigmaPlot (2008, version 13.0), which transcribes data to a dynamically shaped landscape that unfolds the flow of language. The last step, using the same graphics program, will bring about the Intention and Orientation behind the flow, where it will be clear what structure or meaning has been detected. These graphs will show the information in concentrated form, as folded landscapes.

Results

Donald Trump

To facilitate the discussion of the upcoming graphs, the following transcription (without weighing it down with numbers from the protocol) shall be the starting point.

Interval Supplemented text

- (1) Part of being a winner * \emptyset_A is \emptyset_O * \emptyset_A knowing \emptyset_O when enough is enough.
- (2) Sometimes you have \emptyset_O to \emptyset_A give up the fight and \emptyset_A walk away,
- (3) and \emptyset_A move on \emptyset_O to something that \emptyset_A 's more productive.

The text has been supplemented with dummies for Agent and Objective variables, which denote those places in the surface layout where an edge establishes a “hole” in the weave, allowing us to look into the depth and stretch out the texture in its full extension. An asterisk marks an invisible clause marker. In this way the extended text contains ten variables at each side of the verb in a functional clause.

The Objectives are to a higher degree manifest, while the Agents are disguised for the most part. This is called channelling, which means that a shadow (ROT) of a manifest Agent (e.g., *Part of*) is shown up throughout the first interval. Similarly, an Objective may be

shadowed, although in this case it is flowing upwards, since an O-dummy at the end of a clause takes its filler value from the bottom. As a result the value to be supplemented in at an O-dummy place may be the values of both the A and the O in the following clause, as e.g. the ROT of the A- shadow (*to \emptyset_A*) plus the manifest O-variables (*give up the fight*) in the second interval after the verb *have*.

Now, let us turn to the graphic representation of the flow, as shown in Figure 1. The text has produced three intervals, which are denoted in the graph on the Y-axis. On the X-axis are distributed the Agent-variables (α) and the Objective variables (β) respectively. Data have been loaded into the graphics program from left to right, which means that reading the graphs has to be done from the right to the left instead.

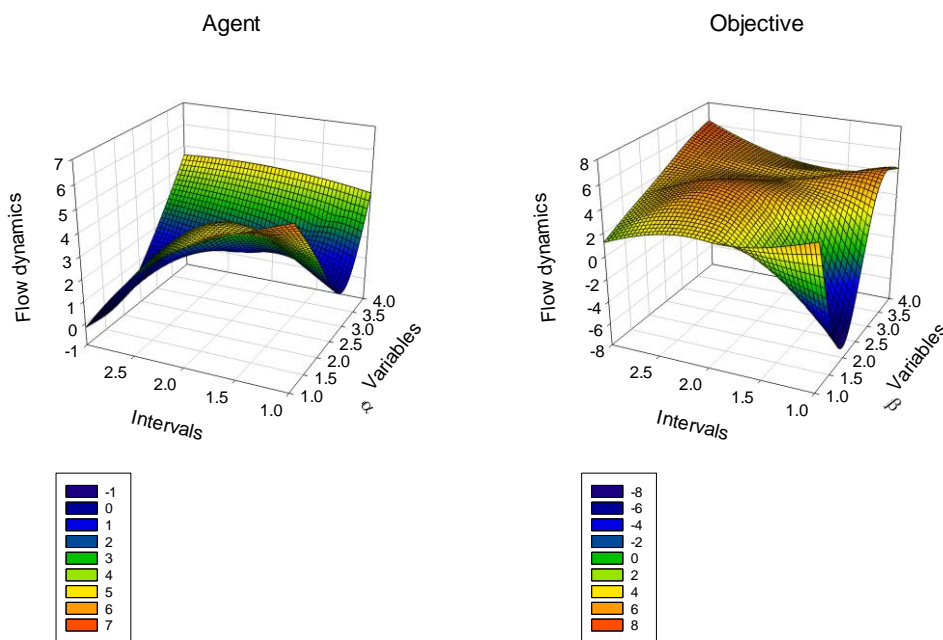


Figure 1 *Textual movement patterns in Trump quote*

The described variations make up movement patterns, which will create shapes that differ in extension and in undulation. The graphs show that the “wing” where the flow is started is slightly different in height. The start variable in the Agent is ≈ 5.93 , while the equivalent in the Objective is ≈ 4.46 . Then, the deepest part of the Objective follows, namely the value ≈ -6.91 while the Agent instead stays at ≈ 3.06 . The implicit agent variables described above can be observed as a deep groove in the flow direction. There are two explicit agent variables in the upcoming flow, namely the last in the first interval and the first in the second interval. The values are in both cases ≈ 4.1 , which is reflected as a small upsurge in the center of the graph. Thereafter the movement decreases downwards and reaches the lowest point at ≈ -0.19 . The movements of the Objective take place mainly on the surface with minor variations. The highest values are created in the second interval (≈ 4.84 through *give up the fight*) and in the third interval (≈ 4.93 through *is more productive*). In addition to the depth at the beginning, this flow is smoother.

In conclusion, one can say that the two flows are functioning complementary to each other to a fairly high degree, at least they move anti-symmetrically. Complementarity is typical of the dynamic of the A and O movements in natural texts, something that the mirror technology has been able to demonstrate. But one observation is worth noting in particular,

and it concerns the spread of both components in space. Usually, the Agent occupies a much smaller part than the Objective, and it depends on the Agent's governing function when it comes to keeping focus in the perspective. Such an Agent does not move forward as the Objective does but inclines instead with the result that the rotational values fall in magnitude.

Here, however, we see an agent flow that is almost as extended as the objective flow, which is an effect of the program calculating the potential size of the text space. The factor is thus the first variable that expands the entire landscape. The objective strings *being a winner* have a lower rotation value (≈ 4.46) than the agent strings *Part of* ≈ 5.93 , because the integrated preposition adds a higher base value to the main string (B. Bierschenk, 2011, Chap. Second Level Processing).

The procedure now goes on to study the concentrated energy in the text. The presentation starts with the Orientation dimension, as it is these transformations that form the basis for which Intention is to be extracted. Figure 2 displays the graph of the Orientation. It shows a landscape with three clear boundaries, a few smaller hills on the right side, a medium sized but sharp cut-out height in the fund and a central rock formation, where the highest point is. In addition, a low terrain with a value below the surface is reproduced, which must be passed before the final summary is reached.

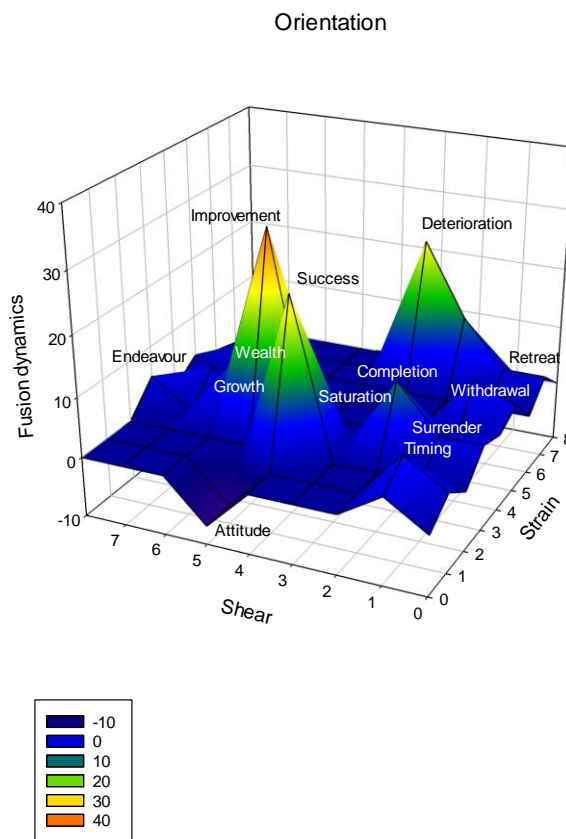


Figure 2 Disclosed meaning in the Orientation dimension of Trump quote

The structural relationships that tie together the thirteen attractors in the graph are explained in detail below. But it should be noted that each individual attractor has its meaning only in relation to all others, that is, when the entire graph is described.

<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Node</i>	<i>Value (q)</i>	<i>Transformation</i>
0	1	1	4.4588	a winner
1	0	2	3.2385	knowing+when enough is enough
1	1	T₁	7.6973	Timing

The first two nodes in the network consist of materialized strings. When these two are to be transformed (merged), the second will affect the first to something third, immaterial. The strings are reminding of a context in which some kind of contest or battle is going on and where it is about to take the correct action at the right time. The name of attractor (T_1) becomes Timing. Timing is a question of judicious and controlled action, which means that the right choices are made with the right foresight.

Next step concerns the naming of a terminal (surface, edge) variable:

3	0	3	4.3646	is enough
3	4	T₂	4.3646	Saturation

The sense of Saturation in the context in which something is going on need not only be linked to the stage where decision is exhausted but also to the sense of having to listen to your gut when rational arguments do not feel safe.

(T_1) and (T_2) shall now merge into a deeper node in the network and form (T_3):

1	1	T_1	7.6973	Timing
3	4	T_2	4.3646	Saturation
3	2	T₃	12.0619	Completion

When the almost physical component, Saturation, changes to a more rational one and when it merges with Timing, the result indicates awareness that actions undertaken at a particular stage have reached their full potential and should not be continued. A consequence is shown in the next step, where two new variables enter the structure:

4	0	4	2.9294	have+to give up the fight
5	0	5	4.8356	give up the fight
5	1	T₄	7.7650	Surrender

Sometimes it is necessary for the decision-maker to recognize another authority than himself and at least temporarily refrain from a victory or leave the initiative and Surrender when circumstances so require.

A new variable is related to this structure.

7	0	6	4.0192	walk away
7	1	T₅	4.0192	Retreat

Retreat means here moving back the positions as a result of perceiving superior arguments from a different perspective than one's own and realizing that the path that was believed to be the right led in the wrong direction.

5	1	T_4	7.7650	Surrender
7	1	T_5	4.0192	Retreat
7	2	T₆	11.7842	Withdrawal

Now the nesting goes further into the net again, where Retreat changes Surrender to Withdrawal. This attractor not only indicates physical and mental withdrawal but also insight into consequences, so that continuation on the pathway would hinder the desired progress.

The next transformation means that two loops, each of which has reached their end, meet:

3	2	T_3	12.0619	Completion
7	2	T_6	11.7842	Withdrawal
7	3	T_7	23.8461	Deterioration

This structural junction constitutes a concentration around the recognition that the obstacles for progress combined with the feeling that it is not possible to pursue an intended strategy leads to a gradual deterioration of the state of affairs. Here a reboot is taking place through two new terminal variables:

6	8	7	1.2153	move on+to something
5	8	8	3.0916	to something
5	7	T_8	4.3069	Endeavour

This new attractor, Endeavour, represents the personal effort it involves to make a new start with new goals in view. The goals are not only personal but can be transferred to larger contexts.

3	8	9	4.9298	is more productive
3	7	T_9	4.9298	Growth

The work on personal maturity creates wealth in the form of ownership and economic prosperity. Growth also denotes that the individual through his involvement contributes to the development of society, which the next transformation shows:

5	7	T_8	4.3069	Endeavour
3	7	T_9	4.9298	Growth
3	6	T_{10}	9.2367	Wealth

Wealth is thus a subset and a means for opening the way towards a profitable continuation of the project one has undertaken, namely to achieve Improvement.

7	3	T_7	23.8461	Deterioration
3	6	T_{10}	9.2367	Wealth
3	5	T_{11}	33.0828	Improvement

However, the process has so far shown that the road is bordered by obstacles. One could say that the structure that is formed into Deterioration must be mastered and that is what is happening on the way to the top. As we see in the mental landscape, a ravine is formed between Deterioration and Improvement, which implies disharmony. This is tackled by the creation of Wealth.

The last variable lies deep in the structure and collects a bundle of shaded strings.

0	5	10	-6.9126	is (+part of+part of+knowing when enough is enough)
1	5	T_{12}	-6.9126	Attitude

The term Attitude stands for action preparedness, based on repeated experience of shortcomings, recognition of others' diverging views and a willingness to see opportunities through change of direction.

3	5	T_{11}	33.0828	<i>Improvement</i>
1	5	T_{12}	-6.9126	<i>Attitude</i>
2	4	T_{13}	26.1702	Success

Changes in one's position give new perspectives and patterns of action and are the basis for all progress, even for personal advancement. This is the recipe for Success, which is the last attractor point.

The description now turns to the Intention, as shown in Figure 3. The extraction of the terms that give the structural relationships of the Intention is described in more detail in I. Bierschenk & B. Bierschenk (2011, p. 28).

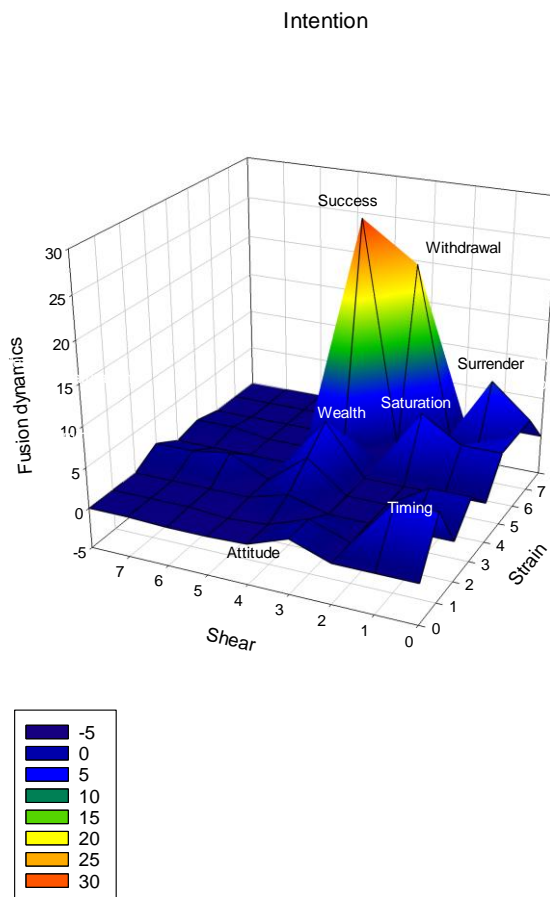


Figure 3 *Disclosed meaning in the Intention dimension of Trump quote*

Usually, the Intention network (alpha variables) underlying the extraction is smaller than the Orientation network. It is therefore remarkable that Success even has a slightly higher value here than in the Orientation. The impression that Success is the unambiguous essence of the statement is enhanced by bringing together the strongest energy accumulation in both dimensions.

Withdrawal is the second most important in the Intention and it also has a much higher value here than in the Orientation. It is understandable in view of the prospective meaning the

term has there. Surrender also plays a major role in the Intention as compared to the Orientation. These two key points show that it is the thoughtful deviation from an out-staked road that is seen as the necessary move. However, Retreat is absent, Completion has decreased in importance, and Deterioration, which perfects the first structure of the Orientation, is completely non-intentional in the Intention, quite naturally. Timing is also reduced to some extent while Saturation is gaining in intentional meaning, emphasizing the instinctive traits.

Among the other conditions for Success is Wealth, while Growth, Endeavour and even Improvement have been dimmed or have disappeared. Attitude is the term that, along with Endeavour, marks the lowest values. It emphasizes that Attitude as an intentional term is related to an inner stance that is akin to motivation.

Vladimir Putin

The statement made by Putin is about a subject that seems typical of his concerns, that is, his nation. The text is worded:

Interval Supplemented text

- (1) If the nation is not capable of $\emptyset_O * \emptyset_A$ preserving itself and \emptyset_A reproducing \emptyset_O ,
- (2) if it loses its vital bearings and ideals,
- (3) then it does \emptyset_O not need foreign enemies –
- (4). it will $\emptyset_O * \emptyset_A$ fall apart on its own

Putin's text has only two more words but they are longer than in Trump's text. Further it has one more interval, although one verb less and has fewer dummy positions. This should make its flow dynamics look different. Figure 4 shows the movement patterns in Putin's statement.

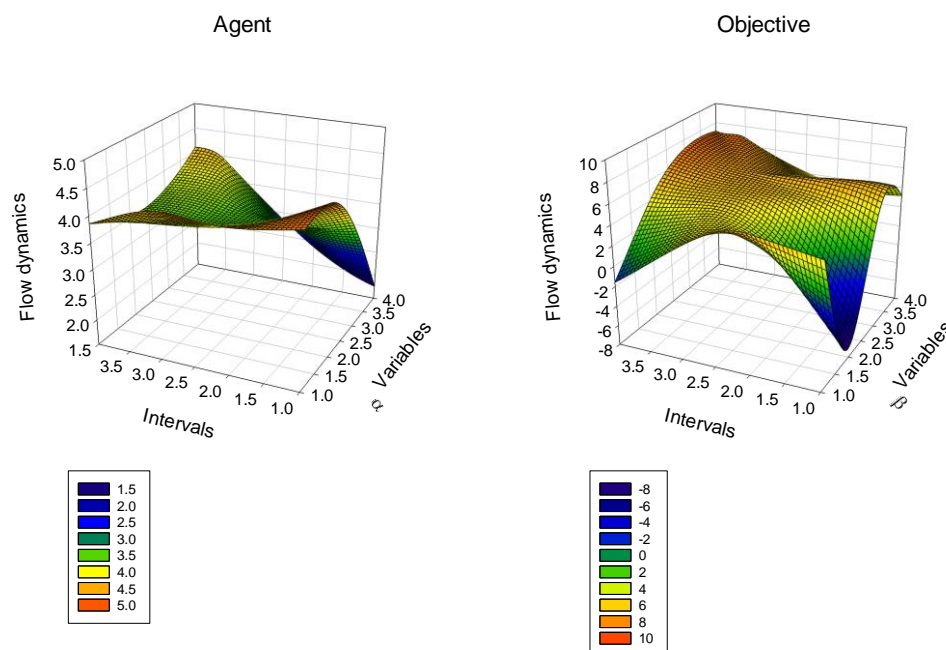


Figure 4 *Textual movement patterns in Putin quote*

It is interesting to note that the movements in the Objectives of the two texts make up similar patterns. Compared to Trump's start-up value (*being a winner*, ≈ 4.46), Putin's rotates in

exactly the same speed (*is not capable*, ≈ 4.46). The deep backward whirling rotation that comes next (≈ -6.91 for Trump and ≈ -6.86 for Putin) gives almost identical shapes in the graph. Corresponding materialised strings that are speeding up the rotations, like in Trump's second and third interval, are found in Putin's second and fourth interval (*loses its vital bearings and ideals*, ≈ 5.93 and *on its own* ≈ 5.77). In spite of great similarities in energy potential, Putin's Objective is slightly more curved.

The Agent on the contrary shows a very different pattern in relation to Trump's Agent formation. Putin's Agent shape reveals moves that are more in line with the natural way of A-O cooperation in natural text production. A relationship where the Agent controls perspective shifts and differentiations must cause reactions in such a way that it will be restricted in extension and concentrated in form. Thus the twisted shape demonstrates that there is a balance between deep and surface movements over the intervals: Where the Objective goes deep the Agent goes high, and vice versa. An overall difference between the two statements is that while the Trump quote is anti-symmetric in kind, as noted above, the statement of the Putin quote is asymmetric. It may be a sign of deeper reasoning.

What kind of reasoning and which structural relationship can be detected in Putin's text will now be examined. The landscapes of concentrated energy are presented in the following, beginning with the Orientation dimension displayed in Figure 5.

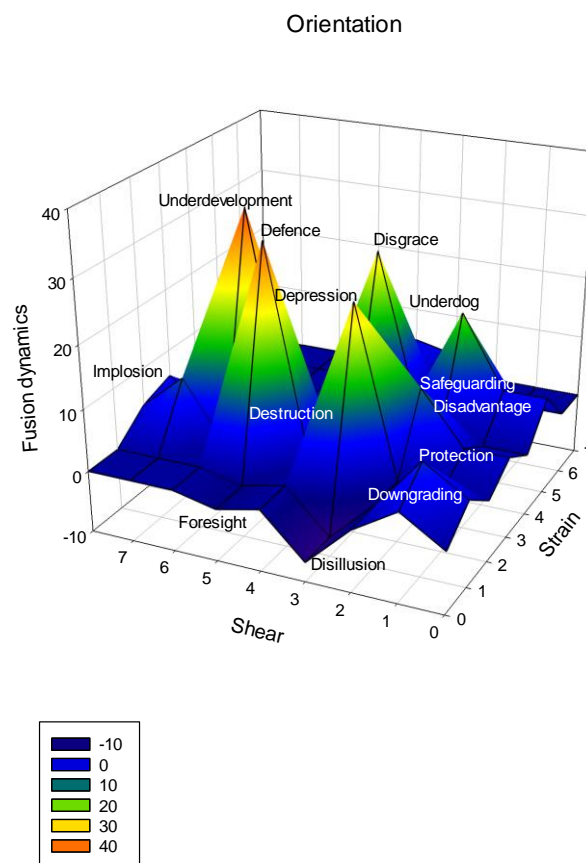


Figure 5 Disclosed meaning in the Orientation dimension of Putin quote

This Orientation landscape is built up by the same number of fusions as the former. However the connection points are differently distributed. A few smaller hills on the right side are evident and in the fund there are a couple of elevations of various sizes. In the middle is a

central mountain clearly separated, while two peaks are raised toward the left, containing the highest point. Thus, the path toward the final concentration is somewhat more variable in Putin's Orientation than in Trump's Orientation. Now follows the detailed route of fusions. It starts at the base with two materialised strings that shall be merged.

<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Node</i>	<i>Value (q)</i>	<i>Transformation</i>
0	1	1	4.4588	is not capable
1	0	3	3.9564	preserving itself
1	1	T₁	8.4152	Protection

The name of the transformed state (T₁) should preferably indicate a condition where a person or organization tries to avoid being disregarded because of its deficits. To preserve oneself when there is a risk of reducing one's status in various kinds of competition triggers an instinct of Protection. Next step means naming a string with shaded Objective complement.

0	3	4	3.1891	reproducing (if it+loses vital bearings and ideals)
1	3	T₂	3.1891	Downgrading

There is an articulated conflict between being reproductive and losing this capability. "Vital bearings and ideals" are foundations for individuals and organisations, like the nation, so in the perceived conflict is expressed an awareness of a risk for Downgrading in various sense. This awareness is deepened when the transformation process goes further.

1	1	<i>T₁</i>	<i>8.4152</i>	<i>Protection</i>
1	3	<i>T₂</i>	<i>3.1819</i>	<i>Risk for downgrading</i>
2	3	T₃	11.6043	Safeguarding

Steps of precaution will be taken when there is a need for protecting one's internal stability. The risk of being downgraded by external elements on various levels highly influences the awareness of an approaching disastrous outcome, which changes protection reflexes into Safeguarding measures. It then becomes evident what the outcome will actually be:

0	5	5	5.9346	loses its vital bearings and ideals
1	5	T₄	5.9346	Disadvantage

Anyone who openly loses in direction is subject to national and international Disadvantage. That this state is central to the current orientation path becomes even more alive when the next transformation is studied.

2	3	<i>T₃</i>	<i>11.6043</i>	<i>Safeguarding</i>
1	5	<i>T₄</i>	<i>5.9346</i>	<i>Disadvantage</i>
2	5	T₅	17.5389	Underdog

After Safeguarding measures have been undertaken, there seems to be a special involvement in this fusion in that Disadvantage is switching direction over to the private sphere. The name Underdog denotes a competitor having little chance of being a winner. It underpins that the structural landscape embodies a relationship in which an organisation or nation becomes personalized.

The continuing step picks up two variables that emphasize an edge of external relations.

3	7	6	3.1188	does (n't+need foreign enemies)
4	7	7	4.6472	need foreign enemies
2	5	T₆	7.7660	Destruction

This transformation tells about a fear of a destiny that holds for anybody that loses internal support in terms of fundamentals like respect, upgrading of abilities, and prosperity. In this sense, Destruction must be regarded as a fatal prophesy. Its impact on the mental status of people and nation becomes elucidated in the continuing nesting:

2	5	T ₅	17.5389	Underdog
2	5	T ₆	7.7660	Destruction
4	5	T₇	25.3049	Disgrace

This concentration point, named Disgrace, is picking up the structure where the feeling of Underdog within a leader is being influenced by an insight into Destruction mechanisms. Self-destructive behaviour within an organisation is utterly disgraceful when it becomes open to transparency.

8	3	9	5.7663	on its own
8	2	10	4.0506	fall apart
7	2	T₈	9.8169	Implosion

The reasoning about destruction mechanisms continues. Now it turns toward the economic concept called Implosion, which in this structure means a contracting emptiness, that is, a sphere falling apart without external agency. The following transformation reveals a consciousness of the consequences.

4	5	T ₇	25.3049	Disgrace
7	2	T ₈	9.8169	Implosion
5	3	T₉	35.1218	Underdevelopment

When the feeling of Disgrace due to subordinate leadership is augmenting through winding up important functions of society, which leads to Implosion, it has very grave effects on industry. Poverty on several levels leads to a state of Underdevelopment.

What to do at these critical circumstances, where the path has reached its peak?

5	0	8	-1.5618	will (it+it+fall apart+on its own)
5	1	T₁₀	-1.5618	Foresight

An awareness of the state of affairs is expressed in this conceptualization. To show Foresight may be part of some solution for the future. However, in the leader's or the nation's interests there seem to be mechanisms of disguise:

5	3	T ₉	35.1218	Underdevelopment
5	1	T ₁₀	-1.5618	Foresight
5	2	T₁₁	33.5600	Defence

In order to influence the strong underdevelopment, the opportunity or the desire to show foresight is facing difficulties when reality becomes apparent. Thus, Defence is a response that can be defended in the light of the debility that affects individuals and society when care about the nation does not seem to be successful.

Everything has its price; Disillusion is an effective fuel for downgrading.

3	0	2	-8.86032	of (if the nation+if the nation+if it+loses vital bearings and ideals)
3	1	T₁₂	-8.86032	Disillusion

So, what is the essence of this structure? The last coupling will give the answer, where the Defence mechanisms are being transformed by Disillusion.

5	2	T ₁₁	33.5600	Defence
3	1	T ₁₂	-8.86032	Disillusion
3	2	T₁₃	26.69968	Depression

Disillusion reinforces the inner necessity of having to defend an image of strong nation and strong leadership. However, to acknowledge the problematic conditions while recognizing that people and country are at the edge of an abyss must eventually lead to a state of Depression - in the individual as well as the political, economic, social and cultural affairs.

The intention underlying this structure is shown in Figure 6.

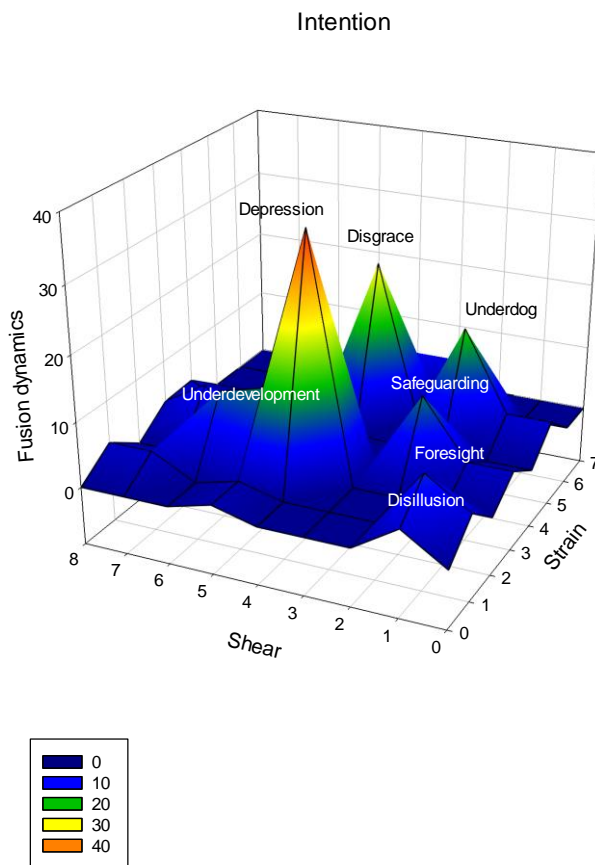


Figure 6 Disclosed meaning in the Intention dimension of Putin quote

Depression has the highest value and is thus the most important in the Intention dimension. Moreover it is worth noting that its value is even higher than in the Orientation. Thus, Depression is of same significance in Putin's structure as Success in Trump's structure. Highly concentrated in the Orientation is Disgrace, which now is extracted as the second most valuable intentional aspect. On the other hand, Underdevelopment, the highest orientation point, does not keep its value. It rather appears as the fundament for Depression.

Two deep concepts, Disillusion and Foresight, become more pronounced in the Intention structure. They signal that prospective behaviour is desirable to prevent depressive outcomes. However, in spite of many insights into a potentially disastrous future, the Intention structure is downplaying those concepts pointing at a catastrophic scenario. Instead Safeguarding is steadily placed on the same level in both dimensions. It is therefore interesting that Underdog is almost as decisively placed as Safeguard, a coincidence that emphasizes more of personal protection behaviours than those of national security.

Discussion

Machiavelli is most often the benchmark when leadership is rated. Perhaps it is because he was the first political theorist and at the same time a cultural personality, whose writings can be read as narratives, so also *The Prince*, which allows interpretation. In addition, it is considered that the political conditions of today do not differ significantly from those of the Renaissance period. It makes it possible to make judgments of our leaders in terms of general features, even though the structure of society in former Italy was different.

In *Dvärgen* (Lagerkvist, 1944, p. 30) the main character says that he hates his own people, but also himself. After killing another dwarf, he becomes sole servant of the prince. Being underdog at court is a fate he chooses, as the prince is the only one that he does not completely detest. The statement that the dwarf makes about himself can be interpreted as self-consciousness, that he knows about his wickedness, which means that he cannot have a better destiny than to entice his superego to evil deeds. In between he devotes his time to mocking all that is noble and beautiful and emphasizing his own excellence including his appearance. It can be a symbol of today's insufficient political leaders' (self-) deception and fraudulent behaviour vis-à-vis their nations. In the non-fiction political landscape of today, it does not seem unduly to propose that Vladimir Putin is acting deceitfully on the global as well as on the domestic scene (Fischer, 2013). The textual structure just described tells that things would be different, if he should act accordingly.

The answer to whether the Trump quote says something about self-consciousness cannot be obtained directly, but can be inferred by a comparison between the text flow and the structure. The structure of the three graphs (Figures 1-3) discloses a Gestalt whose external behaviour is congruent with the inner movements. The potential energy reproduced in the text flow is not restrained, but rather suggests that the structure could be characterized by an agent of self-esteem and powerful productive ability. Therefore, when the analysis interferes with the structural relationships, it appears that the intention, which is the driving force, appears to be of higher significance in some respects than the orientation. You may have doubts about Donald Trump's behaviour and opinions, but you cannot say that the way he talks is not consistent with the way he acts.

The dualism that Pär Lagerkvist embodies through the portrait of the prince expresses the complexity it means to be both human being and leader of a nation at the same time. These two aspects of greatness are operationalized in Machiavelli's Prince. He is, on the one hand, a humanist, sometimes naive and moral driven, but on the other hand he leaves morality when he must act in the interest of the state. In the latter case, he needs to be backed up by his subjects, for example, if he considers it necessary to expand his country's territory. In the novel there is a central scene, showing how decency can control the prince's decision when he is preparing to go to war. The dwarf, eagerly longing for joining the battlefield, is forbidden to participate, because the prince suspects he becomes bloodthirsty. The prince shows here a test of high moral standards, as modern interpretations of Machiavelli are proposing. With this standard, Trump has shown the same morality in his sudden initiative in the Syrian war in early 2017.

Trump had succeeded more than anticipated before he was finally elected president. But contrary to what Machiavelli observed in *The Prince*, and what observers of today associate with political leaders, the textual structure shows that he can adapt to changing circumstances and that he has a built-in feeling for what the environment expects. Further, prosperity for him functions as a means of success. Protecting the prosperity of society was also a driving force for Machiavelli in guiding renaissance leaders.

Vladimir Putin as an international player for a few decades has been discussed in relation to his capacity as leader of the non-western world, and therefore he has been associated with dubious values in relation to international security matters and human rights. Whether the world looks through the smokescreen or not, he is presented as a power-player with ideas of supremacy, even from domestic analysts. However, he seems to have very little support from his compatriots regarding the invasion of Crimea and Ukraine. With respect to his ability to adapt to circumstances, the status within the nation would require that he change his approaches in various affairs to guarantee the prosperity of his nation. Instead he tries to act as if he has to defend himself against external enemies, even though he predicts they no longer exist because of the ongoing internal destruction.

Although Donald Trump is a tall and sturdily built man, many of his detractors want to see him reduced to be able to regard him as the evil power of politics. For them, he is a dwarf and not a prince, one who robs beautiful women and not a helper, a foolish and malicious watch-dog instead of one who cares for the prosperity of the farm. In the domestic political debate, critics of all shades hold Trump responsible for all disturbance and agitation that evolved in public places, especially in Charlottesville last summer. With this background, the Swedish former guest researcher at American University in Washington DC, Frida Stranne, points out that Trump has raised the racial and other structural issues, while others, who are responsible for the development, are hiding behind his back in order to direct people's attention only toward him (Stranne, 2017). In her reasoning, former President Barack Obama belong to those who avoid responsibility, and she reminds the readers about all expectation that his presidency woke up, which he did not live up to. It is not by beautiful speeches that you create real change, she concludes.

Donald Trump has not always been subject to animosity, however. David Garrow, Barack Obama's biographer, reports on a graduate thesis that Obama wrote with a fellow college student at Harvard Law School, emphasizing the ideals of individual freedom and mobility. There is Obama saying: *I may not be Donald Trump now, but just you wait; if I don't make it, my children will* (quoted in Richardson, 2017). Evidently, Trump has been regarded as the incarnation of the American dream.

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